

# NIG

Dire Tisiphone there keeps the ward,  
Girt in her sanguine gown by *night* and day,  
Observant of the fowls that pass the downward way. *Dryd.*  
2. It is much used in composition.  
*To-NIGHT*, *adverbially*. In this *night*; at this *night*.  
There came men in *hither to-night* of the children of Is-  
rael, to search out the country. *Jes. ii. 2.*  
*NIGHTBRAWLER*, *n. f.* [*night* and *bravoler*.] One who raises  
disturbances in the night.  
You unlace your reputation,  
And spend your rich opinion for the name  
Of a *night-bravoler*. *Shakef. Othello.*  
*NIGHTCAP*, *n. f.* [*night* and *cap*.] A cap worn in bed, or  
in undress.  
The rattlement houted, and clapt their chopt hands,  
And threw up their sweaty *night-caps*. *Shakef. Jul. Caesar.*  
Great mountains have a perception of the disposition of  
the air to tempests sooner than the vallies below; and there-  
fore they say in Wales, when certain hills have their *night-*  
*caps* on, they mean mischief. *Bacon's Nat. History.*  
How did the humbled swain detest  
His prickly beard, and hairy breast!  
His *night-cap* border'd round with lace,  
Could give no softness to his face. *Swift's Poems.*  
*NIGHTCROW*, *n. f.* [*night* and *crow*.] A bird that cries in  
the night.  
The owl shriek'd at thy birth, an evil sign;  
The *night-crow* cry'd, a boding luckless time. *Shakef.*  
*NIGHTDEW*, *n. f.* [*night* and *dew*.] Dew that wets the ground  
in the night.  
All things are hush'd, as nature's self lay dead,  
The mountains seem to nod their drowsy head;  
The little birds in dreams their songs repeat,  
And sleeping flowers beneath the *night-dew* sweat;  
E'en lust and envy sleep. *Dryden's Ind. Emperor.*  
*NIGHTDOG*, *n. f.* [*night* and *dog*.] A dog that hunts in the  
night. Used by deer-stealers.  
When *night-dogs* run, all ferts of deer are chased. *Sha.*  
*NIGHTDRESS*, *n. f.* [*night* and *dress*.] The dress worn at  
night.  
The fair ones feel such maladies as these,  
When each new *night-dress* gives a new disease. *Pope.*  
*NIGHTED*, *adj.* [from *night*.] Darkened; clouded; black.  
It was great ignorance, Gloster's eyes being out,  
To let him live: Edmund, I think, is gone;  
In pity of his misery to dispatch  
His *nighted* life. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
Good Hamlet, cast thy *nighted* colour off,  
And let thine eye look like a friend on Denmark. *Sha.*  
*NIGHTFARING*, *n. f.* [*night* and *fare*.] Travelling in the  
night.  
Will-a-Wisp, milreads *night-faring* clowns,  
O'er hills, and sinking bogs, and pathless downs. *Gay.*  
*NIGHTFIRE*, *n. f.* [*night* and *fire*.] Ignis fatuus; Will-a-  
Wisp.  
Foolish *night-fires*, womens and childrens wishes,  
Chafes in arras, gilded emptiness:  
These are the pleasures here. *Herbert.*  
*NIGHTFLY*, *n. f.* [*night* and *fly*.] Moth that flies in the  
night.  
Why rather, sleep, liest thou in smoaky cribs,  
And hush't with buzzing *night-flies* to thy slumber;  
Than in the perfum'd chambers of the great,  
And lull'd with sounds of sweetest melody? *Shakespeare.*  
*NIGHTFOUNDER*, *n. f.* [from *night* and *founder*.] Lost  
or distressed in the night.  
Either some one like us *night-founded* here,  
Or else some neighbour woodman, or at worst,  
Some roving robber calling to his fellows. *Milton.*  
*NIGHTGOWN*, *n. f.* [*night* and *gown*.] A loose gown used  
for an undress.  
Since his majesty went into the field,  
I have seen her rise from her bed, throw  
Her *night-gown* upon her. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
They have put me in a silk *night-gown*, and a gaudy fool's  
cap. *Addison's Guardian*, No. 113.  
No meagre muse-rid mope, adult and thin,  
In a dun *night-gown* of his own loose skin. *Pope's Dunci.*  
*NIGHTHAG*, *n. f.* [*night* and *hag*.] Witch supposed to wan-  
der in the night.  
Nor uglier follows the *night-hag*, when called  
In secret, riding through the air she comes  
Lur'd with the smell of infant blood, to dance  
With Lapland witches. *Addison's Paradise Lost*, b. ii.  
*NIGHTINGALE*, *n. f.* [from *night* and *gale*, Saxon, to sing;  
*galm*, Teutonic, is a sound or echo.]  
1. A small bird that sings in the night with remarkable me-  
lody; Philomel.  
I think,  
The *nightingale*, if she should sing by day,

# NIG

When every goose is cackling, would be thought  
No better a musician than the wren. *Shakespeare.*  
Although the wezon, throtle, and tongue, be the instru-  
ments of voice, and by their agitations concur in those de-  
lightful modulations, yet cannot we assign the cause unto  
any particular formation; and I perceive the *nightingale* hath  
some disadvantage in the tongue. *Brown's F. Err.*  
Thus the wife *nightingale* that leaves her home,  
Pursuing constantly the cheerful spring,  
To foreign groves does her old musick bring. *Waller.*  
2. A word of endearment.  
My *nightingale*!  
We'll beat them to their beds. *Shak. Ant. and Cleopatra.*  
*NIGHTLY*, *adv.* [from *night*.]  
1. By night.  
Thee, Sion! and the flow'ry brooks beneath,  
That wash thy hallow'd feet, and warbling flow,  
*Nightly* I visit. *Milton's Paradise Lost*, b. iii.  
Soon as the evening shades prevail,  
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,  
And *nightly* to the listening earth  
Repeats the story of her birth. *Addison's Spectator.*  
2. Every night.  
Let all things suffer,  
Ere we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep  
In the affliction of those terrible dreams  
That shake us *nightly*. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
*NIGHTLY*, *adj.* [from *night*.] Done by night; acting by  
night; happening by night.  
May the stars and shining moon attend  
Your *nightly* sports, as you vouchsafe to tell  
What nymphs they were who mortal forms exced. *Dryd.*  
Soon as the flocks shook off the *nightly* dews,  
Two swains, whom love kept wakeful and the mules,  
Pour'd o'er the whit'ning vale their fleecy care. *Pope.*  
*NIGHTMAN*, *n. f.* [*night* and *man*.] One who carries away  
ordure in the night.  
*NIGHTMARE*, *n. f.* [*night*, and according to *Temple*, *mara*, a  
spirit that, in the heathen myth-logy, was related to torment  
or suffocate sleepers.] A morbid oppression in the night,  
resembling the pressure of weight upon the breast.  
Saint Withold foisted thrice the would,  
He met the *nightmare*, and her name he told;  
Bid her alight, and her troth plight. *Shakef. K. Lear.*  
The forerunners of an apoplexy are, dulness, drowsiness,  
vertiges, tremblings, oppressions in sleep, and *night-mares*.  
*Arbuthnot on Aliments.*  
*NIGHTPIECE*, *n. f.* [*night* and *piece*.] A picture so coloured  
as to be supposed seen by candle light; not by the light of the  
day.  
He hung a great part of the wall with *night-pieces*, that  
seemed to show themselves by the candles which were lighted  
up; and were so inflamed by the sun-shine which fell upon  
them, that I could scarce forbear crying out fire. *Addison.*  
*NIGHTRAIL*, *n. f.* [*night* and *reil*, Saxon, a gown or robe.]  
A loose cover thrown over the dress at night.  
An antiquary will scorn to mention a pinner or *night-rail*,  
but will talk as gravely as a father of the church on the  
vitta and peplus. *Addison on ancient Modis.*  
*NIGHTRAVEN*, *n. f.* [*night* and *raven*.] A bird supposed of  
ill omen, that cries loud in the night.  
The ill-fact owl, death's dreadful messenger,  
I pray his bad voice bode no mischief:  
I had as lief have heard the *night-raven*,  
Come what plague would have come after it. *Shakef.*  
*NIGHTROBBER*, *n. f.* [*night* and *robber*.] One who steals  
in the dark.  
Highways should be fenced on both sides, whereby thieves  
and *night-robbers* might be more easily pursued and encoun-  
tered. *Spenser's Ireland.*  
*NIGHTRULE*, *n. f.* [*night* and *rule*.] A tumult in the night.  
How now, mad spirits,  
What *night-rule* now about this haunted grove? *Shakef.*  
*NIGHTSHADE*, *n. f.* [*night* and *shade*, Saxon.]  
1. A plant of two kinds, common and deadly night-shade.  
The flower consists of one leaf, which is divided into five  
parts, and expands in form of a star: from the flower-cup  
rises the pointal, which afterward becomes a round, oval,  
soft, succulent fruit, containing many flat seeds in each. The  
species are nine. This the physicians have directed to be  
used in medicine, under the title of *solanum hortense*. *Milke.*  
2. Deadly.  
Deadly *night-shade* (belladonna) a plant. The flower is  
bell-shaped, of one leaf, divided into five acute segments  
at the top, and succeeded by a globular soft fruit, divided  
into two cells which contain the seeds. It is a very strong  
poison. *Miller.*  
*NIGHTSHINING*, *n. f.* [*night* and *shine*.] Shewing brightness  
in the night. *None.*

# NIM

None of these nocturnal, or *night-shining* bodies, have been  
observed in any of the ancient sepulchres. *Wilkin's Dædalus.*  
*NIGHTSHRIEK*, *n. f.* [*night* and *shriek*.] A cry in the night.  
I have almost forgot the taste of fears:  
The time has been, my senses would have cool'd  
To hear a *night-shriek*; and my fell of hair  
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir,  
As life were in't. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
*NIGHTTRIPPING*, *n. f.* [*night* and *trip*.] Going lightly in  
the night.  
Could it be prov'd,  
That some *night-tripping* fairy had exchang'd  
In cradle cloaths, our children where they lay,  
Then would I have his Harry, and he mine. *Shakef.*  
*NIGHTWALK*, *n. f.* [*night* and *walk*.] Walk in the night.  
If in his *night-walk* he met with irregular scholars, he took  
their names, and a promise to appear, unfetted for, next morn-  
ing. *Walton's Life of Sanderfon.*  
*NIGHTWALKER*, *n. f.* [*night* and *walk*.] One who roves in  
the night upon ill designs.  
Men that hunt so, be either privy dealers, or *night-walkers*.  
*Aldam's Schoolmaster.*  
*NIGHTWARBLING*, [*night* and *warble*.] Singing in the night.  
Now is the pleasant time,  
The cool, the silent, fave where silence yields  
To the *night-warbling* bird. *Milton's Par. Lost*, b. v.  
*NIGHTWARD*, *adj.* [*night* and *ward*.] Approaching towards  
night.  
Their *night-ward* studies, wherewith they close the day's  
work. *Milton on Education.*  
*NIGHTWATCH*, *n. f.* [*night* and *watch*.] A period of the  
night as distinguished by change of the watch.  
I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in  
the *night-watches*. *Psalms* lxxiii. 6.  
*NIGRESCENT*, *adj.* [*nigrescent*, Latin.] Growing black; ap-  
proaching to blackness.  
*NIGRIFICATION*, *n. f.* [*niger* and *facio*.] The act of making  
black.  
*NIMBLITY*, *n. f.* [*nibilis*, Fr. *nihilum*, Latin.] Nothingness;  
the state of being nothing.  
Not being is considered as excluding all substance, and  
then all modes are also necessarily excluded; and this we call  
pure *nibility*, or mere nothing. *Watts's Logic.*  
*TO NILL*, *v. a.* [from *ne wills*, nillan, Saxon.] Not to will;  
to refuse; to reject.  
Certes, said he, I will thine offer'd grace,  
Ne to be made so happy do intend,  
Another bliss before mine eyes I place,  
In all affections she concurrereth still;  
If now, with man and wife to will and nill  
The self-same things, a note of concord be,  
I know no couple better can agree. *Ben. Johnson.*  
*NILL*, *n. f.* The shining sparks of bras in trying and melting  
the ore.  
*TO NIM*, *v. a.* [*nimen*, Dutch, to take.] To take. In cant,  
to steal.  
They'll question Mary, and by his look  
Detect who 'twas that *nimm'd* a cloak. *Hudibras*, p. i.  
They could not keep themselves honest of their fingers,  
but would be *nimming* something or other for the love of  
thieving. *L'Estrange, Fable* 241.  
*NIMBLE*, *adj.* [from *nim*, or *numan*, Saxon, tractable.] Quick;  
active; ready; speedy; lively; expeditious.  
They being *nimble*-jointed than the rest,  
And more industrious, gathered more store. *Spenser.*  
You *nimble* lightnings, dart your blinding flames  
Into her scornful eyes. *Shakespeare's K. Lear.*  
You have dancing shocs  
With *nimble* toles. *Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.*  
His off'ring soon propitious fire from heaven,  
Consum'd with *nimble* glance and grateful steam;  
The others not, for his was not sincere. *Milt. P. Lost.*  
Thro' the mid seas the *nimble* pinnace sails,  
Aloof from Crete before the northern gales. *Pope.*  
*NIMBLENESS*, *n. f.* [from *nimble*.] Quickness; activity; speed;  
agility; readiness; dexterity; celerity; expedition; swif-  
tiness.  
The hounds were straight uncoupled, and ere long the  
stag thought it better to trust to the *nimbleness* of his feet,  
than to the slender fortification of his lodging. *Sidney.*  
Himself shewing at one instant both steadiness and *nimble-*  
*ness*. *Sidney*, b. ii.  
All things are therefore partakers of God; they are his  
offspring, his influence is in them, and the personal wisdom  
of God is for that very cause said to excel in *nimbleness* or  
agility, to pierce into all intellectual, pure and subtle spirits,  
to go through all, and to reach unto every thing which is.  
*Hooker*, b. v. f. 5.  
We, lying still,  
Are full of rest, defence and *nimbleness*. *Shakef.*  
Ovid ranged over all Parnassus with great *nimbleness* and

# NIP

agility; but as he did not much care for the toil requisite to  
climb the upper part of the hill, he was generally roving  
about the bottom. *Addison's Guardian*, No. 115.  
*NIMBLEWITTED*, *adj.* [*nimble* and *wit*.] Quick; eager to  
speak.  
Sir Nicholas Bacon, when a certain *nimble-witted* coun-  
sellor at the bar, who was forward to speak, did interrupt  
him often, said unto him, There is a great difference be-  
twixt you and me; a pain to me to speak, and a pain to  
you to hold your peace. *Bacon, Apophth.* 124.  
*NIMBLY*, *adv.* [from *nimble*.] Quickly; speedily; actively.  
He capers *nimbly* in a lady's chamber,  
To the lascivious playing of a lute. *Sha. Rich. III.*  
The air  
*Nimbly* and sweetly recommends itself. *Shakef.*  
Most legs can *nimbly* run, tho' some be lame. *Davies.*  
The liquor we poured from the crystals, and set it in a  
digesting furnace to evaporate more *nimbly*. *Boyle.*  
*NIMBLESS*, *n. f.* *Nimbleness*.  
*NIMMIETY*, *n. f.* [*nimietas*, school Latin.] The state of being  
too much.  
*NIMMER*, *n. f.* [from *nim*.] A thief; a pilferer.  
*NINCOMPPOP*, *n. f.* [A corruption of the Latin *non compos*.]  
A fool; a tridler.  
An old ninnyhammer, a dotard, a *nincompoop*, is the best  
language she can afford me. *Addison.*  
*NINE*, *n. f.* [*ninos*, Gothick; *nigon*, Saxon.] One more than  
eight; one less than ten.  
The veyward filters,  
Thus do go about, about,  
Thrice to thine and thrice to mine,  
And thrice again, to make up *nine*. *Shakef. Macbeth.*  
A thousand scruples may startle at first, and yet in conclu-  
sion prove but a *nine-days* wonder. *L'Estrange.*  
The faults are *nine* in ten owing to affectation, and not to  
the want of understanding. *Swift's Miscell.*  
*NINEFOLD*, *n. f.* [*nine* and *fold*.] Nine times; any thing nine  
times repeated.  
This huge convex of fire,  
Outrageous to devour, immures us round *ninefold*. *Milt.*  
*NINEPENNY*, *n. f.* [*nine* and *pence*.] A silver coin valued at  
nine-pence.  
Three silver pennies, and a *nine-pence* bent. *Gay's Past.*  
*NINEPINS*, *n. f.* [*nine* and *pin*.] A play where nine pieces of  
wood are set up on the ground to be thrown down by a bowl.  
A painter made blossoms upon the trees in December,  
and school-boys playing at *nine pins* upon the ice in July.  
*Peacham on Drawing.*  
For as when merchants break, o'erthrown  
Like *nine-pins*, they strike others down. *Hud. p. ii.*  
*NINESCORE*, *adj.* [*nine* and *score*.] Nine times twenty.  
Eugenius has two hundred pounds a year; but never va-  
lues himself above *nine-score*, as not thinking he has a right  
to the tenth part, which he always appropriates to charitable  
uses. *Addison's Spectator*, No. 177.  
*NINETEEN*, *adj.* [*nigonecyne*, Saxon.] Nine and ten; one  
less than twenty.  
Nineteen in twenty of perplexing words might be changed  
into easy ones, such as occur to ordinary men. *Swift.*  
*NINETEENTH*, *adj.* [*nigonecyda*, Saxon.] The ordinal of  
nineteen; the ninth after the tenth.  
In the *nineteenth* year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of  
Babylon, came Nebuzaradan. *2 Kings* xxv. 8.  
*NINETY*, *adj.* [*nunhagontez*, Saxon.] Nine times ten.  
Enos lived *ninety* years and begat Cainan. *Gen. v. 9.*  
*NINTH*, *adj.* [*negoda*, Saxon.] That which precedes the  
tenth; the first after the eighth; the ordinal of nine.  
Upon a strict observation of many, I have not found any  
that see the *ninth* day. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
*NINTIETH*, *adj.* [*nunhagontezoda*, Saxon.] The ordinal  
of ninety; the tenth nine times told.  
*NINNY*, *n. f.* [*ninnu*, a child, Spanish.] A fool; a simpleton.  
What a pied *ninny's* this? *Shakespeare's Tempest.*  
The dean was so shabby, and look'd like a *ninny*,  
That the captain suppos'd he was curate. *Swift.*  
*NINNYHAMMER*, *n. f.* [from *ninny*.] A simpleton.  
Another vents her passion in scurrilous terms; an old *nin-*  
*ny-hammer*, a dotard, a *nincompoop*, is the best language she  
can afford me. *Addison's Guardian*, No. 109.  
Have you no more manners than to rail at Hocus, that  
has saved that clod-pated, numskull'd, *ninny-hammer* of yours  
from ruin, and all his family. *Arbut. John Bull.*  
*TO NIP*, *v. a.* [*nippen*, Dutch.]  
1. To pinch off with the nails; to bite with the teeth.  
In oranges and lemons, the *nipping* of their rind giveth  
out their smell more. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.* No. 388.  
2. To cut off by any slight means.  
The small shoots that extract the sap of the most leading  
branches, must be *nip'd* off. *Mortimer's Hyls.*  
3. To blast; to destroy before full growth.  
This is the state of man; to-day he puts forth